

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On Friday afternoon, the House of Representatives voted in favor of the compromise economic recovery package by a vote of 246-183, with one voting present. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill Friday evening, and it will then head to the president's desk for signature.

Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) voted for the bill. He released the following statement after the vote:

"Congress has debated this recovery package for weeks, but we've been working on it for months. We've met with dozens of economists, and the consensus was that we had to pass this bill.

"We're facing a crisis of confidence. Consumers refuse to buy products and services. Businesses are reluctant to invest and hire more workers. And banks are hesitant to resume loaning money. The federal government must step in fill those voids or the recession will deepen and the unemployment rate will rise.

"This bill will create jobs. It will modernize our infrastructure. It will repair schools, invest in high-speed rail and prioritize alternative energy production. This package will allow states to maintain their Medicare programs, boost food stamp funding and cut taxes for 95 percent of American workers. This isn't legislation for Wall Street, it's a bill for middleclass Americans, and I was proud to cast my vote in favor of it.

"I've been holding conference calls with local officials, from mayors to school superintendents to county administrative officers. It's vital that once this bill is signed into law, our cities and counties are ready to act immediately to bring our share of the recovery package to the Central Coast. I look forward to continuing to work with local officials over the next two years as this program is fully implemented."

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